

**REMARKS**

By this Amendment the specification has been amended to remove an unnecessary sentence, and claims 17-21 and 23-28 have been amended to better define the invention. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 17-28 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as failing to properly define the invention.

By this Amendment the claims have been amended to overcome the examiner's criticisms.

The examiner has rejected claims 17-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baba.

This rejection is without merit. Baba discloses a method of designing a dental prosthesis model, such as a bridge or a crown, which includes measuring a three-dimensional configuration of a dentition of a subject in order to obtain configuration data of upper and lower jaw dentitions of a subject, and storing the dentition configuration data is stored, together with pontic model data defining standard pontic model configurations corresponding to the configurations of individual teeth. The pontic model is expressed as a combination of patches that are stored as configuration expression data, and morphology definition data indicating a characteristic morphology of the teeth of the pontic model. The pontic model data is read out, corresponding to a tooth or teeth where the dental prosthesis is to be placed. Based on the read out pontic model data, crown model data indicating a crown region is made. The

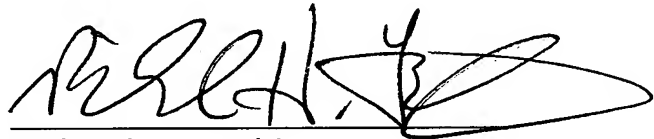
crown model data is displayed so that it can be superimposed on a dentition configuration diagram. The crown model is then deformed, by modifying the patches, for example, to form a desired gap with respect to formation of the dental prosthesis. Baba does not disclose a computer with software in its memory as defined in applicants' claims 17-27 nor does it disclose the step defined in claim 28.

The examiner's rejection based on Baba should be withdrawn.

Further amended drawings are being prepared.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. H. Tushin', followed by a large, stylized circular flourish.

Richard H. Tushin  
Registration No. 27,297  
Franklin Square, Third Floor West  
1300 I Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3353  
(202) 906-8680